



USNTPS NEWSLETTER

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U.S. NAVAL TEST PILOT SCHOOL, 22783 CEDAR POINT ROAD BUILDING 2168,
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1160

CO'S CORNER LTC STEVE KIHARA



Welcome to the USNTPS Reunion edition of our newsletter. This one is my last newsletter as the Skipper, so I'll keep it short, there are too many good news stories coming out of the School. First, the USNTPS Reunions are always a great forum for alumni and friends of the school to get together in a professional setting, and the 2006 iteration is shaping up really well. This

year the Reunion is April 20-22 and we hope to see you there. Additionally, if you are in town on 16 June, Tom and I cordially invite you to our change of command. I'm not sure if we'll have barnyard animals this time, but any thing is possible!

I'd like to thank you ALL for the last 3 ½ years. I have had all the support, opportunities, and great memories one could ask for. It's been a blast!!

As always, you can always reach me at steve.kihara@us.army.mil.

TPS PROJECT ACCELERATES FLEET CAPABILITY CDR Pete Waters

TPS students from Class 128 found themselves on the leading edge of flight testing recently when the same system they had helped install and test on the school's venerable NP-3D ASTARS aircraft was rapidly adapted for fleet use by two F-14D squadrons flying in Iraq. Under the leadership and tutelage of TPS instructors Shawn Denihan and LCDR Rob Cassol, and Airborne Systems Department Heads LCDR Jeff Carty and CDR Tom Schumacher, eight students conducting the Weapons System Integration phase of the Airborne Systems syllabus adapted a Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) system, normally employed on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, to TPS's NP-3D aircraft. The ROVER system gave the aircrew the capability to downlink imagery from airborne sensors directly to offboard



laptop computers, giving ground personnel the ability to see video imagery that until now had only been viewable from

onboard the aircraft. After designing the installation of a ROVER system in the NP-3D with help from avionics technicians Bill Rustmann and Tony Spadarella of NAVAIR 5.1.2.4, Class 128's Systems students then tested the system as part of the FLIR Evaluation phase of the Airborne Systems curriculum. This test saw FLIR imagery from the NP-3D being transmitted to a ground station at Webster Field

Following the successful demonstration of the ROVER at TPS, the F-14 program office launched a highly accelerated effort to pass the capability on to the fleet. Within weeks, F-14 aviators flying the Tomcat, as part of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM possessed the unprecedented capability to directly support combat troops with down linked in-flight imagery, providing real-time eye-in-the-sky video direct to their laptops. In support of CVW-1's upcoming deployment, this technology is currently being adapted to



ATFLIR pods being flown on Super Hornets and LANTIRN pods being tested on S-3B's. This achievement -- from TPS class project to combat capability in a matter of weeks -- highlights the continuing commitment by USNTPS to provide

the test community graduates who possess the skills required to develop and provide modern, relevant systems and aircraft to the Navy and Marine Corps.

**USNTPS TO CONDUCT FIRST DT-IIA
EXERCISE IN THE V-22 OSPREY**
CDR Bob Blake

As many of you know, the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) trains military pilots, Weapon System Operators/Naval Flight Officers, and engineers to conduct flight-testing of aircraft and their systems. The 10-month course culminates with a graduation exercise consisting of a simulated Developmental Phase IIA (DT-IIA) evaluation.



Many of you may remember the DT-IIA as the highlight of the course, an opportunity to add a new aircraft to your logbook and to take part in a technical exchange with

other flight test organizations. Some may remember it as something entirely different. Today, the evaluation consists of 2 or 3 students conducting both ground and flight tests of an aircraft, to include a systems, flying qualities, and performance evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation the students write an approximately 100 page individual report of results for their graduation thesis. The students of USNTPS Class 129 will be among the first of their peers to conduct a DT-IIA evaluation on the MV-22 Osprey. While this is only 1 of 16 other DT-IIA aircraft this cycle, selected from around the world, including the Mirage 2000B, JAS-39B Gripen and the MD-902, the V-22 is high on the list of students and staff alike...and has been for a long time. Since entry into Full Scale Development (FSD) in 1986, the V-22 has been through a significant developmental evaluation and several operational periods, making it unavailable to the school as a DT-IIA aircraft. For several years now, the Chief Flight Instructor has been working with the V-22 program office (PMA-275) to introduce this revolutionary rotorcraft to the school's syllabus. Performing a wide range of vertical and short take-off and land (V/STOL) missions as effectively as a conventional helicopter; this advanced technology tilt-rotor is equally capable of achieving the long-range cruise efficiencies of a twin turboprop aircraft. Along with its state-of-the-art onboard systems this aircraft is equally suited for any of the school's three curriculums (Fixed Wing, Rotary Wing and Airborne Systems) as a DT-IIA aircraft. Developed to fill multi-Service combat operational requirements, the MV-22 is planned to replace the current Marine Corps assault helicopters in the medium lift category (CH-46E and CH-53D) and will soon be added to the list of potential aircraft for the USNTPS DT-IIA graduation exercise.

So while many students will be off to Sweden to fly the Gripen; or France to fly the Mirage; or Atlantic City to fly the

Dolphin, two rotary-wing students from Class 129 will be heading to North Carolina to fly the Osprey and becoming among the few, for now, to have this unique aircraft added to their logbook.

**GIO PETTY OFFICER SELECTED FOR U.S.
ARMY'S WARRANT OFFICER PROGRAM**
ADCS Dennis Glaub



The United States Naval Test Pilot School is about to have a vacancy. Aviation Electricians Mate (AW/NAC) Brian D. Ayers was selected on November 18th to participate in the U.S. Army's Warrant Officer Program specializing in Aviation, specifically as a helicopter pilot. He was one of only a handful of Naval personnel to be selected for this program during this

selection cycle, a tribute to his character and qualifications. These are attributes Petty Officer Ayers was able to cultivate since his arrival at TPS August 11, 2003. During his tenure, he was afforded the opportunity to hone his skills as a flight engineer on the NP-3D and increase his knowledge of aviation management as a member of the Government Quality Assurance office. The latter of which is integral to his pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Logistics Management. While at TPS, his exposure to numerous aircraft types, both fixed wing and rotary, including the Army's OH-58C "Kiowa" and UH-60L "Blackhawk" helicopters, should provide an advantage as he prepares to step into the cockpit of the Army's finest helicopters.

Petty Officer Ayers hails from Portsmouth, Virginia and holds the distinction of being a Navy 'Brat.' His father, Commander (Ret.) Douglas Ayers, a member of TPS Class 77 graduating in June of 1980, was the first to notify him that the "list was out," with the news quickly filtering down to wife Abigail, son Avery, and daughter Ashley. Petty Officer Ayers is to report to Fort Rucker, Alabama, to begin Warrant Officer Candidate School in mid-May. Upon completion, he will be promoted to W-1 and begin flight training to become an Army Aviator.

CLASS 128 GRADUATES & CLASS 130 BEGINS
Mr. Rich Greenleaf

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School held graduation ceremonies for class 128 at the Holiday Inn-Select, Solomons, MD on Friday December 16th. Thirty-two students successfully completed an intense 10-month course of instruction and were designated as test pilots, test naval flight officers and test engineers.

Mr. Brian Binnie, Program Business Manager at Scaled Composites and Test Pilot for Burt Rutan's award winning SpaceShipOne was the guest speaker. RDML Jeffrey

Wieringa, Commander Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division and Assistant Commander for Research & Engineering was on hand to present the diplomas to each graduate. Graduates included members from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Civil Service engineers, and international students from United Kingdom, Australia, and Italy.

Captain Kenneth Ginader, USN, Vice Commandant, Air Force Institute of Technology, presented master's degrees to five cooperative agreement students including, Lt. Ryan J. Bryla, USN, Capt Justin W. Eggstaff, USMC, Lt. Lucas P. Kadar, USN, Lt. Matthew J. Percy, USN, and Lt. William D. Selk, USN.

CAPT Michael Cosgrove, USN (Ret), Vice President of the Patuxent River Council of the Navy League of the United States, was in attendance to present the Outstanding Student award to Maj. Steven R. Braddom, USMC. Capt. Antonio Baldussi, ItAF was presented the Outstanding Developmental Phase II Award from Lt Cdr Stephen Crockatt, RN, on behalf of the Empire Test Pilot School. Lt Cdr Crockatt is a Rotary Wing Flight Instructor pilot assigned to USNTPS as an exchange pilot from the UK.

Class 130 started hard at work February 6th. The make-up of this class is 16 - U. S. Navy, 5 - U. S. Marine Corps, 5 - U. S. Army, 2 - U. S. Air Force, 3 - Civilian engineers, 1- Royal Air Force, 1 - Royal Australian Air Force, 1 - Royal Singapore Air Force, and 1 - French Air Force.

NEW!---USNTPS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *CAPT Tom Huff*

A new Alumni Association will be unveiled soon to enhance our communications among graduates and school supporters, while driving out significant cost incurred by the school for administrative management and mailings. The vision is to develop a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization using a volunteer leadership team and employing the power of the internet to sustain the alumni database and provide a portal to communicate among classmates and among other school affiliates such as T & E Museum, SETP, Navy League, etc.

The goal is to introduce an interim executive committee at this year's reunion, who will begin the development process, to be followed by formal web-based elections at the 2007 reunion timeframe. A new TPS web site will be created - with utilities and structure very much like other alumni sites. A secure "members only" section will allow updates to profiles, and provide options to mass-email classmates among other useful features. The semi-annual newsletter that was so cost prohibitive for the school will be posted on the site for your viewing pleasure.

We hope that this new Association will boost your awareness of events and activities related to the school, while providing a more reliable means to keep track of alumni. To create and sustain the web site, annual dues will be required. We are working on those numbers now, with the hope to keep the cost at the absolute minimum. Additionally, we are investigating the option to pay online, making this as painless as possible and requiring little burden from the Alumni Treasurer.

LOCAL SOAPBOX DERBY CHAMPION INSPIRED BY TPS AIRCRAFT

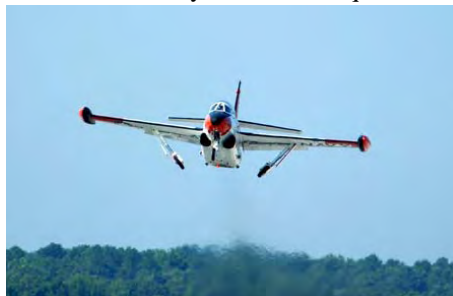
Whistling down a hill in downtown Leonardtown at 35 mph, Michael Danko (age 11) won the first of a series of races in his stock class car that was painted in TPS T-38 (Tester 14) livery. Ultimately, he won the championship in this car, which was on display at TPS for several weeks recently. Michael's



parents Mike and Katie Danko both work at Pax River. It was interesting to see the craftsmanship in this car, and to get the "hero" shot in front of Tester 14. Since Michael won the championship, this car is no longer legal to race in sanctioned Soap Box Derby events. He is working on an upgraded class car to race in 2 years. This year's racing is to be held in Leonardtown on June 10th with practice on the 3rd. More information can be found at: <http://aasbd.com>.

T-2C DIVESTITURE TO BEGIN

With some trepidation, TPS will begin bidding farewell to a tried and true stable mate - the venerable and trusty T-2C Buckeye. The first aircraft to fly-off from Patuxent River to a new home in the desert at Davis Monthan AFB is scheduled to leave on 27 April 2006. The departure of the remaining aircraft will be staggered throughout Fiscal Year 07, with one aircraft remaining at Pax for permanent display. Besides being the aircraft that many of us carrier qualified with, the T-2 has been



a bread-and-butter aircraft for the fixed-wing syllabus for decades. Its forte has been the upright and inverted spin syllabus, spearheaded by

none other than the "Spin Meister" Jerry Gallagher. The T-6A Texan II aircraft will replace the T-2C, with Class 131 being the first class to use the new aircraft as part of the updated fixed-wing curriculum.

***TPS ACADEMIC INSTRUCTOR NAMED
NAVAIR ESTEEMED FELLOW***

We are proud to announce that Mr. JJ McCue was recently selected as a NAVAIR Esteemed Fellow. Mr. Steve Cricchi, Director, Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation & Test (ISEET) Department, (AIR 5.1) presented the official notification letter on behalf of Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, VADM W. B. Massenburg. JJ has been a mainstay at TPS, teaching core academic courses such as calculus, transonics, and helicopter aerodynamics since 1971. His selection to this elite group recognizes his longstanding



(L-R) Mr. Steve Cricchi, Director
AIR 5.1 and Mr.J. J. McCue

contribution to NAVAIR and specifically, to the dedication and commitment to excellence in molding future test pilots/flight officers, and engineers from all services and a host of international partners. JJ has also been called to assist in solving complex engineering challenges with RDT&E programs, such as wing drop in the FA-E/F Super Hornet, where he was instrumental in developing an effective and rapid engineering change.

Adding to this impressive achievement, JJ was also selected by the American Society of Naval Engineers as the recipient of the Society's Harold E. Saunders Award for 2005. This award honors an individual whose reputation in naval engineering spans a long career of notable achievement and influence. JJ will be formally presented with this award in June. The TPS family is extremely proud of JJ for earning this well-deserved recognition!